

CORRECTED VERSION

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 February 2005 (03.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/011220 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04L 25/03**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2004/007155

(22) International Filing Date: 1 July 2004 (01.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
03015024.7 2 July 2003 (02.07.2003) EP

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **CORE-OPTICS INC.** [US/US]; c/o The Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, City of Wilmington, Delaware 19801 (US).

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(74) Agent: **HELLMICH, Wolfgang**; Ernsbergerstrasse 14, 81241 München (DE).

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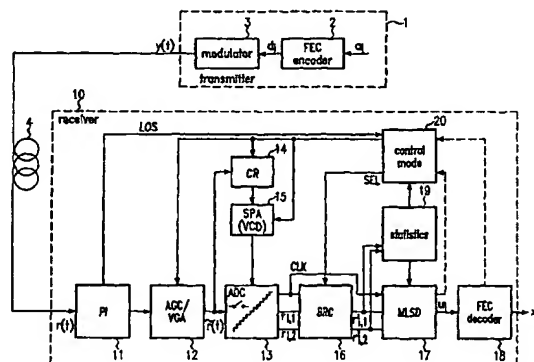
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(54) Title: CHANNEL ESTIMATION AND SEQUENCE ESTIMATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF OPTICAL SIGNAL



(57) Abstract: The application relates to channel estimation. The method comprises digitizing an analogue signal representing a sequence of symbols thereby associating one digital word with the level of said analogue signal at each sampling time. The most likely sequence of symbols is detected. To this end branch metrics are provided. According to one embodiment, a symbol period comprises at least two sampling times. Moreover the branch metrics are obtained from frequencies of digital words resulting from a digitizing and the symbols of the most likely sequence. According to another embodiment a symbol period comprises at least one sampling time. Events are counted wherein each event is defined by a channel state and a current digital word. Each channel state is defined by a pattern of symbols relative to a current symbol determined at the time of a current digital word. A model distribution is fitted to event counts and a branch metrics is obtained from the fitted model distribution. Moreover the invention relates to corresponding symbol detectors for optical receivers.



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Published:

— with international search report

(48) Date of publication of this corrected version:

24 March 2005

(15) Information about Correction:

see PCT Gazette No. 12/2005 of 24 March 2005, Section II

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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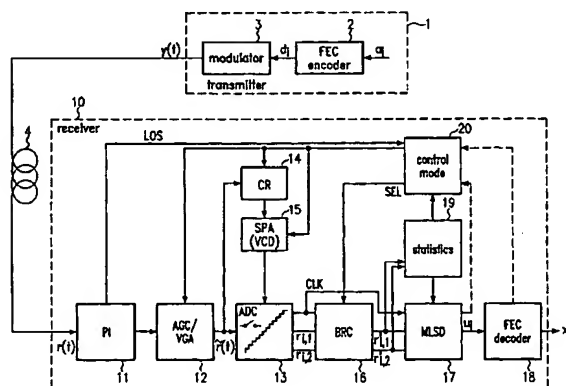
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Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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